

June 2004

Welcome to the eighth edition of the **MassGIS GISette**, a bi-monthly newsletter emailed to our users and partner agencies to keep them informed of data updates, GIS events, and on-going technology developments. This newsletter will not replace more focused emails that many of you currently receive. A page on our website has been created for the [GISette](#). There you will find back issues of the GISette and an [online subscription form](#).

Because we see the GISette as a useful medium for disseminating information related to MassGIS and data development, I would encourage readers to forward to me updates or announcements that they would like included in the GISette. We particularly want to encourage submission of announcements concerning data development projects. As the GISette only comes out every-other-month, we will soon start posting these announcements on the MassGIS web site from where they will be "archived" in the GISette.

## **Database News**

### **Data Updates**

#### **\*\*\*NEW MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY DATA LAYER RELEASED\*\*\***

- **New [Town Boundaries layer from Survey Coordinates](#) - 6/28/2004**  
MassGIS is particularly pleased to finally announce the availability of a new more spatially accurate version of the boundaries for Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns. More and more GIS data are being developed at the larger scales (e.g., 1" = 100') typically required by local government. Being able to knit these data sets together into regional or statewide data layers requires a more spatially accurate municipal boundary data layer. This new data layer meets that need. The boundaries were created from survey coordinates extracted from the 68-volume Harbor and Lands Commission Town Boundary Atlas for the 351 communities (cities and towns) in Massachusetts. The coordinates in this Atlas, and subsequent updates, are those approved over the years by the Massachusetts Legislature as the legal representation of points around the periphery of each city and town. The Atlas was published in the early 1900s and has been updated with legislated changes by the Survey Section of the Massachusetts Highway Department. In developing this data layer, MassGIS staff have worked closely with Survey Section staff to ensure that these coordinate points have been correctly used to develop each city or town's boundary. For communities with a coastal boundary, MassGIS has collaborated with MWRA and the Department of Environmental Protection to complete a 1:12,000 scale coastline. The boundaries in this data layer are an accurate large scale representation of each town or city's boundary. However, the boundaries in this data layer are not a substitute for the definitive determination of a boundary location. That determination remains the purview of the professional land surveyor.

- **New [Shellfish Suitability Areas](#) Layer** - 6/24/2004  
This new layer comprises polygons representing habitats suitable for ten species of shellfish along the coast of Massachusetts. The polygons delineate areas that are believed to be suitable for shellfish based on the expertise of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), the opinion of local Massachusetts Shellfish Constables, and information contained in maps and studies of shellfish in Massachusetts.
- **Updates to DEP Public Water Supply Layers** - 6/16/04  
The DEP GIS Group has updated the following layers:
  - [Public Water Supplies](#)
  - [Zone IIs, IWPA](#)
  - [Surface Water Protection Areas \(Zone A, B, C\)](#)
- **C21e Layer Updated** - 6/16/2004  
DEP GIS Group has updated the [Tier Classified Chapter 21E Sites](#) datalayer. 26 sites were added, 148 sites were removed, and 12 sites underwent a change in Status.
- **NPDWSA Layer Updated** - 6/16/04  
DEP GIS Group has updated the [Non-Potential Drinking Water Source Area](#) datalayer.
- **DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) Data Updated** - 5/13/2004  
Data have been added and updated to the Connecticut, Farmington, Millers, Nashua, and Westfield watersheds. For more information, please see the [Datalayer Description](#) and, for areas with completed data development, the [Status Map](#).
- **[Title 5 Layer](#) Updated** - 5/13/04  
Many tiles were modified to reflect updates to the DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) layer. Distribution of the layer is now by the Watershed Index (previously the layer was tiled by USGS Quad panels).

### **What's New on the Web Site:**

- **[Runtime Data Viewer Downloadable](#) - 6/21/2004**  
A modified version of the MassGIS Runtime Data Viewer may now be downloaded for use with local data.
- **[MassGIS' NEGIS 2004 Presentations](#) - 6/2/2004**  
Two MassGIS PowerPoint Web presentations - on the MassGIS Web Map Services and Data QA - from the NEGIS 2004 conference in May are now online.
- **NEW ArcGIS 9.x DataViewer Available July 1**

In the latest release from ESRI, ArcGIS 9.0 there has been changes to the code structure, resulting in the MassGIS ArcGIS 8.x Data Viewer being incompatible with 9.0.

A new MassGIS Data Viewer has been created to work with ArcGIS 9.0. In addition to a change in the coding structure, the new Data Viewer is being released in a dll file format.

If you have installed ArcGIS 9.0 you can request the new Data Viewer as an upgrade to your existing Data Viewer : <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/Arc9download.htm>

For further information, including an overview, instructions and implications with the new Data Viewer please go to: [http://www.mass.gov/mgis/viewer\\_9x.htm](http://www.mass.gov/mgis/viewer_9x.htm)

If you have additional questions regarding the MassGIS 8.x or 9.x Data Viewer, please contact Susan Brunton at [Susan.Brunton@state.ma.us](mailto:Susan.Brunton@state.ma.us)

## **MassGIS Online Mapping Updates**

### **Mass.Gov Massachusetts Real Property Sales Viewer**

Further expanding the use of the MassGIS Web Mapping Services, The Department of Revenue in conjunction with MassGIS, has just launched a new online mapping application.

The application maps real property sales (currently with data in the range of approximately 1999-2002). The application features selection and mapping of property sales by municipality/region, property type, price, and date. Users may zoom to a detailed map of the sale location and display sales records for more detailed information. Access to the application from the DOR website: <http://www.dls.state.ma.us/WhatsNew/whatsnew.htm> see "Mapping of LA-3 Real Property Sales". The direct URL is:

<http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us:8080/LA3/pages/main.jsp>

### **Department of Conservation and Recreation Watershed Protection Act Viewer**

A new online viewer using MassGIS Web Mapping Services, the DCR Watershed Protection Act Viewer, is now available:

[http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/mdc\\_wspa/pages/main.jsp](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/mdc_wspa/pages/main.jsp)

This viewer can be used to find information on how the Watershed Protection Act (WsPA) affects parcels in the Quabbin, Ware and Wachusett watersheds. Users can search by city/town, sheet id and parcel id, or address. The Watershed Protection Act (WsPA) regulates land use and activities within critical areas of the Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River and Wachusett Reservoir watersheds for the purpose of protecting the quality of drinking water.

See <http://www.mass.gov/mdc/wspa.html> for more information on the Watershed Protection Act.

## **Open Space Corner**

Hello again Open Space Users!

Phase I of the New & Improved MassGIS Protected and Recreation OpenSpace Dataset will be rolled out July 19th for EOEA GIS staff. There will be a short lag as the data is prepared for external use (I need to set up scripts to convert the GeoDatabase to shapefile format for AV3x users) and the OpenSpace website is revamped. Once it is officially on-line for external use, a

special mailing will be sent out to notify all MassGIS users.

The forthcoming updated OpenSpace website will feature many new and helpful items. First, there will be an interactive status map of the Commonwealth indicating the last spatial & tabular edits to OpenSpace aggregated by town. The new OpenSpace schema will be available for download (right now it is in Visio, but I'm trying to move it to a PDF) as an ESRI-esque poster fully describing the GeoDatabase (Feature Dataset, Feature Classes, Object Classes, Topology, Domains, etc...). Part of the website will also provide help to users in querying the new data. This will be by means of text questions and the specific queries needed to properly answer them. If you have certain questions you want to know how to answer in the new data, please write them out in detail and send them to me (address below) for inclusion.

#### Open Space Attribute Focus: *Site\_Name*

For state agency land, this is the "official" name of the site. For all other OpenSpace, it is what was told to us by whoever gave us the data. It need not be an "official" designation, but the locally accepted name of the parcel. SITE\_NAME tends to be one of the more overlooked, yet useful fields in OpenSpace. When looking at municipal land, town departments such as Parks & Recreation will manage the majority. If there are many parcels in close proximity, it can be difficult to tell what parcel is what. Municipal staff can often sort things out easily enough using map-lot identifiers, but it is much clearer if the sites are labeled "Jones Park" or "Smith Street Tot Lot". This really helps the average user find what they are looking for.

If you are sending updates in to me at MassGIS, please try to complete the SITE\_NAME field. If you have seen parcels in OpenSpace that have no name or incorrect site names, please notify me of the correct information (please include the unique OS\_ID or TOWN\_ID, POLY\_ID).

Keep those updates coming and go see some real OpenSpace!

Scott Costello, MassGIS Open Space Coordinator, [scott.costello@state.ma.us](mailto:scott.costello@state.ma.us), 617-626-1076.

Any comments or suggestions about the GISette are welcomed [paul.nutting@state.ma.us](mailto:paul.nutting@state.ma.us)

MassGIS-The Commonwealth's Office of Geographic and Environmental Information is located within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and is charged with the collection, enhancement, storage and dissemination of the Commonwealth's geographic data.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH OUR PHYSICAL LOCATION IS THE SAME, WE HAVE A NEW *MAILING* ADDRESS**

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